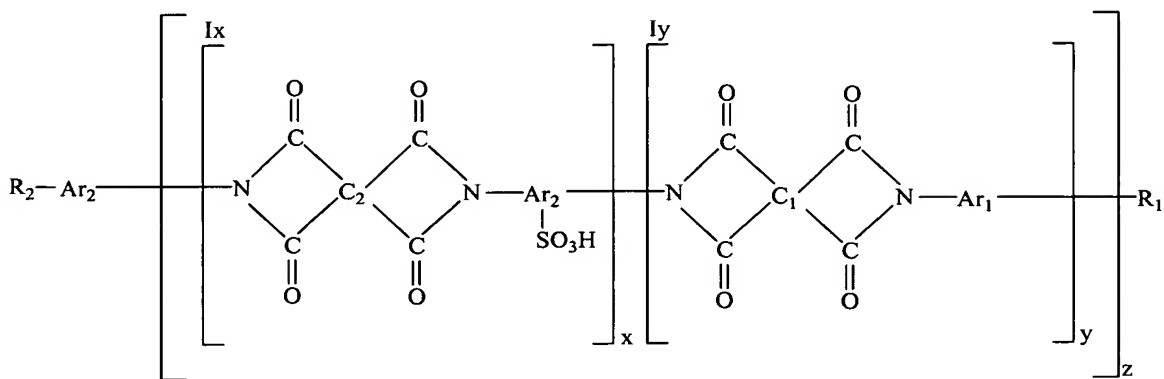


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

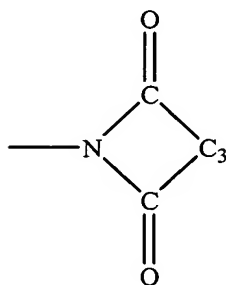
Claim 1 (Currently Amended): Block sulfonated polyimide comprising blocks or sequences represented by formula (I):



in which:

- x is a real number from ~~5 to 10~~ 5 to 9 in formula Ix; and
- y is a real number ~~greater than or equal to x~~ from 5 to 10 in formula Iy;
- and the groups C₁ and C₂ can be identical or different, and each represents a tetravalent group comprising at least one carbonaceous aromatic ring, optionally substituted, having from 6 to 10 carbon atoms and/or a heterocycle of aromatic character, optionally substituted, having from 5 to 10 atoms and comprising one or more heteroatoms selected from the group including S, N and O; C₁ and C₂ each forming, with the adjacent imide groups, cycles of 5 or 6 atoms,
- the groups Ar₁ and Ar₂ can be identical or different, and each represents a divalent group comprising at least one carbonaceous aromatic ring, optionally substituted, having from 6 to 10 carbon atoms and/or a heterocycle that is aromatic in character, optionally substituted, having from 5 to 10 atoms and comprising one or several heteroatoms selected from the group including S, N and O; at least one of said carbonaceous aromatic rings and/or

Ar₂ heterocycle being, moreover, substituted by at least one sulfonic acid group and where each of the groups R₁ and R₂ represents NH₂ or a group represented by the formula:



where C₃ is a divalent group comprising at least one carbonaceous aromatic ring, optionally substituted, having from 6 to 10 carbon atoms and/or a heterocycle of aromatic character, optionally substituted, having from 5 to 10 atoms and comprising one or more heteroatoms selected from the group that includes S, N, and O, C₃ forming with the adjacent imide group a cycle with 5 to 6 atoms.

Claims 2-4 (Canceled).

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): Sulfonated polyimide according to Claim 1, in which in the formula (I), z represents a number from 1 to 10.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): Sulfonated polyimide according to Claim 1, the equivalent molecular weight defined by the polymer weight in gram per sulfonic acid equivalent of which is from 400 to 2,500.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): Sulfonated polyimide according to Claim 1 the molecular weight of which is from 10,000 to 100 000.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): Sulfonated polyimide according to Claim 1, in which in the formulas (I_x), (I_y), and (I), C₁, and C₂ can be identical or different, and each represents a benzenic ring optionally substituted, by one or two substituents selected from the alkyl and alkoxy groups with 1 to 10 C and the halogen atoms; or several benzenic rings optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the alkyl and alkoxy groups with 1 to 10 C and the halogen atoms, linked by a simple bond or by a divalent group between them;

- C₁ and C₂ can also each represent a condensated polycyclic carbonaceous group optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the alkyl and alkoxy groups with 1 to 10 C and the halogen atoms;

- C₁ and C₂ can also each represent a heterocycle or a condensated heterocycle, with aromatic character, this heterocycle being optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from among the alkyl and alkoxy groups with 1 to 10 C and the halogen atoms;

- Ar₁ and Ar₂ can be identical or different, and each represents a divalent benzenic ring with meta or para binding, optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from among the alkyl and alkoxy with 1 to 10 C and the halogen or several benzenic rings optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from among the alkyl and alkoxy groups with 1 to 10 C and the halogen atoms, linked by a simple bond or by a divalent group;

- Ar₁ and Ar₂ can also each represent a condensated polycyclic carbonaceous group optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from among the alkyl and alkoxy groups with 1 to 10 C and the halogen atoms.

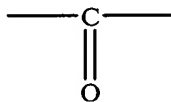
Claim 9 (Previously Presented): Sulfonated polyimide according to Claim 1, in which in the formula (I), C₃ is a benzenic or naphthalenic cycle optionally substituted by one

or more substituents selected from among the 1 to 10 C alkyl and alkoxy groups and the halogen atoms.

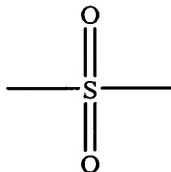
Claim 10 (Previously Presented): Sulfonated polyimide according to Claim 8, in which the divalent group mentioned is selected from among:

- a divalent group derived from a linear or branched alkyl group with 1 to 10 C optionally substituted, by one or more halogens selected from among F, Cl, Br, and I and/or by one or more hydroxyl groups:

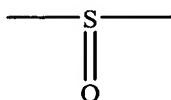
- a heteroatom selected from among O, S;



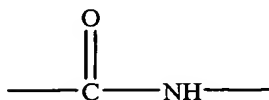
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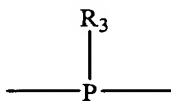
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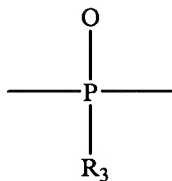
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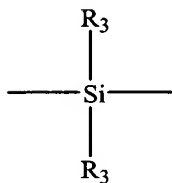
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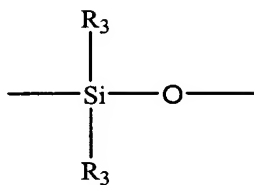
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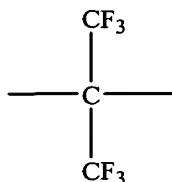
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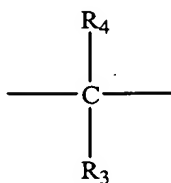
- a group ;



- a group ;



- a group ;



- a group ;

where R_3 and R_4 are selected from among the alkyl groups of 1 to 10 C.

Claim 11 (Original): Sulfonated polyimide according to Claim 8, in which C_1 is a benzenic ring, and C_2 is a set of two benzenic rings linked by an oxygen bridge between them.

Claim 12 (Original): Sulfonated polyimide according to Claim 8, in which C_1 is comprised of benzenic cycles linked by one or more perfluoroalkylene groups and C_2 is comprised of benzenic rings linked by one or more divalent perfluoroalkyl groups or perfluoroalkylenes.

Claim 13 (Original): Sulfonated polyimide according to Claim 8, in which C_1 is a benzenic ring and C_2 is a naphthalene cycle.

Claim 14 (Original): Sulfonated polyimide according to Claim 8, in which C_1 and C_2 are both naphthalenic cycles.

Claim 15 (Original): Sulfonated polyimide according to Claim 8, in which Ar_1 is a diphenyl methane group, and C_2 is a biphenyl disulfonic.

Claim 16 (Original): Sulfonated polyimide according to Claim 8, in which Ar_1 is a benzenic group and Ar_2 is a biphenyl disulfonic.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): Sulfonated polyimide according to Claim 8, in which Ar_1 is a diphenyl ether group and Ar_2 is a biphenyl disulfonic group.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): Membrane comprising a sulfonated polyimide according to Claim 1.

Claim 19 (Original): Fuel cell device comprising at least one membrane according to Claim 18.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): Sulfonated polyimide according to Claim 1, in which in the formulas (I_x), (I_y), and (I), C₁, and C₂, can be identical or different, and each represents a benzenic ring optionally substituted, by one or two substituents selected from the alkyl and alkoxy groups with 1 to 10 C and the halogen atoms; or several benzenic rings optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the alkyl and alkoxy groups with 1 to 10 C and the halogen atoms, linked by a simple bond or by a divalent group between them;

- C₁ and C₂ can also each represent a condensated polycyclic carbonaceous group optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the alkyl and alkoxy groups with 1 to 10 C and the halogen atoms;

- C₁ and C₂ can also each represent a heterocycle or a condensated heterocycle, with aromatic character, this heterocycle being optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from among the alkyl and alkoxy groups with 1 to 10 C and the halogen atoms;

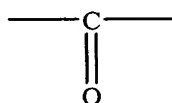
- Ar₁ and Ar₂ can be identical or different, and each represents, for example, a divalent benzenic ring with meta or para binding, optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from among the alkyl and alkoxy with 1 to 10 C and the halogen or several benzenic rings optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from among the alkyl and alkoxy groups with 1 to 10 C and the halogen atoms, linked by a simple bond or by a divalent group;

- Ar₁ and Ar₂ can also each represent a condensated polycyclic carbonaceous group optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from among the alkyl and alkoxy groups with 1 to 10 C and the halogen atoms.

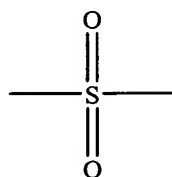
Claim 21 (Previously Presented): The sulfonated polyimide according to Claim 20, in which the divalent group mentioned is selected from among:

- a divalent group derived from a linear or branched alkyl group with 1 to 10 C optionally substituted, by one or more halogens selected from among F, Cl, Br, and I and/or by one or more hydroxyl groups:

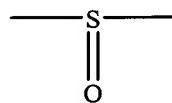
- a heteroatom selected from among O, S;



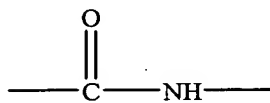
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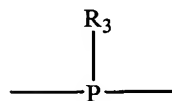
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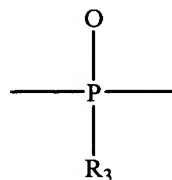
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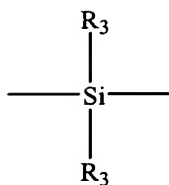
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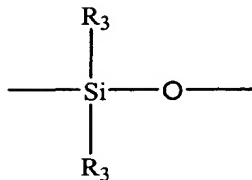
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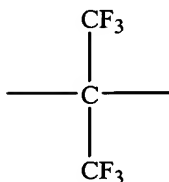
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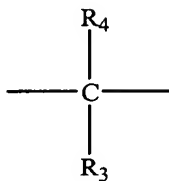
- a group ;



- a group ;



- a group ;



- a group ;

where R_3 and R_4 are selected from among the alkyl groups of 1 to 10 C.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The sulfonated polyimide according to Claim 20, in which C_1 is a benzenic ring, and C_2 is a set of two benzenic rings linked by an oxygen bridge between them.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The sulfonated polyimide according to Claim 20, in which C_1 is comprised of benzenic cycles linked by one or more perfluoroalkylene groups

and C₂ is comprised of benzenic rings linked by one or more divalent perfluoroalkylenes groups or perfluroralkylenes.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The sulfonated polyimide according to Claim 20, in which C₁ is a benzenic ring and C₂ is a naphthalene cycle.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The sulfonated polyimide according to Claim 20, in which C₁ and C₂ are both naphtalenic cycles.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The sulfonated polyimide according to Claim 20, in which Ar₁ is a diphenyl methane group, and C₂ is a biphenyl disulfonic.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): The sulfonated polyimide according to Claim 20, in which Ar₁ is a benzenic group and Ar₂ is a biphenyl disulfonic.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The sulfonated polyimide according o Claim 20, in which Ar₁ is a diphenyl ether group and Ar₂ is a biphenyl disulfonic group.

Claim 29 (Currently Amended): The ~~sulfonate~~ sulfonated polyimide according to Claim 10 wherein R₃ and R₄ are selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, isopropyl and mixtures thereof.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): The sulfonated polyimide according to Claim 21 wherein R₃ and R₄ are selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, isopropyl and mixtures thereof.

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENTS

Claims 1 and 29 are currently amended.

Claims 2, 11-16 and 19 are original.

Claims 2 and 3 are canceled.

Claim 4 was previously canceled.

Claims 5-10, 17, 18, 20-28 and 30 were previously presented.

Upon entry of the amendment Claims 1 and 5-30 will be active.

The amendment to Claim 1 is supported by Claim 3 as previously presented.

The amendment to Claim 29 was to correct a minor typographical error.

No new matter has been added by the amendment.